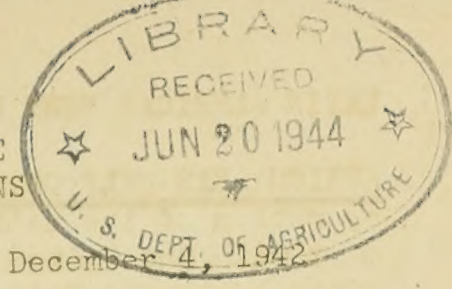


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS



LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 465

December 4, 1942

QUEBRACHO DISTRIBUTORS ACCUSED OF VIOLATING ANTI-TRUST LAWS. Seven companies -- five American, one English and one Canadian -- have been charged with combining to fix excessive prices for quebracho, a tanning material made from a tree found almost exclusively in Argentina and Paraguay. Two additional counts include restraining the shipment of quebracho by dividing world markets and monopolizing the importation of quebracho into the United States. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BIG RUBBER DRIVE PLANNED BY BRAZIL to increase rubber production and meet plans drawn by the Brazilian and United States Governments. 78,000 men will travel on foot more than 600 miles over mountain, river, jungle, and swamp to reach the Amazon region. It is estimated that rubber production will average about 500,000 tons at the end of 1943. (F.M. Garcia in N.Y. Times)

ADDITIONAL MEXICAN LABORERS ARE GOING TO CALIFORNIA to help harvest vegetables. This brings to 4,800 the number who will supplement labor drained from the U.S. fields by war industries. (Christian Science Monitor)

BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA STUDYING WATERWAY which would utilize the Orinoco, Casiquiare, Negro and Amazon Rivers. An agreement has been signed by Foreign Minister Parra Pérez and Foreign Minister Oswaldo Aranha creating the commission to develop this inter-American inland waterway. (N.Y. Times)

PURCHASE OF ROTENONE FROM BRAZIL AND PERU will be carried out by the Commodity Credit Corporation under a program pronounced jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Board of Economic Warfare. It is hoped that at least 4,500,000 pounds of the insecticide will be imported during the year to aid greater truck-crop and livestock production and to replace imports formerly received from the Far East. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

MEXICAN LABOR LEADER ARRIVES IN NICARAGUA. Vicente Lombardo Toledano, secretary general of the Labor Confederation of Latin America arrives in Managua after visiting several South and Central American republics to improve labor war efforts. (N.Y. Times)

A NEW BOLIVIAN CABINET composed of members of the Liberal and Republican-Socialist parties and two army generals has been formed by President Enrique Peñaranda de Castillo. Arturo Galindo has been named Secretary of Agriculture. (N.Y. Times)

CHILE HAS NEW FOOD INDUSTRY in the Sociedad Chilean Industrial de Pescado. Twelve million Chilean pesos have been invested in this up-to-date fish canning and processing plant which now employs 180 people. Tuna, sardine, anchovy, and other fish are canned, and fish-oil and other by-products are processed. (Export Trade and Shipper)

MEXICO ASKS HELP OF RAILROAD LABOR to cooperate in rendering more efficient the operation of the national railways. It is believed that the recent Mexican agreement with the United States for a rehabilitation program of the railroads to be financed by the United States has been one of the factors resulting in the appeal. (N.Y. Times)

PUERTO RICO POLICY OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ADMINISTRATION ATTACKED by José A. Ferre, vice president of the Porto Rico Iron Works, who charges that 80 percent of the severely restricted shipping space of 30,000 tons monthly is being used by the AMA to bring foodstuffs, most of which are of low quality and generally undesirable. "The staples in the island are rice, beans and codfish, but the AMA sends hundreds of cases of shredded wheat. The people never heard of it..." Another cause for complaint was the arrival of a convoy bringing 3,000 bags of refined sugar instead of sorely needed rice, even though the island is "bulging" with about 40 percent of its last sugar crop. (N.Y. Times)

JUAN JOSE AMEZAGA ELECTED PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY for the 1943-1947 term. With the counting of ballots almost completed, President Amézaga had 207,472 votes to 110,440 for Luis Alberto Herrera, an isolationist and his closest opponent in the five-man race. (Christian Science Monitor)

VENEZUELA'S FISH-CANNING INDUSTRY CHECKED BY LACK OF TIN. The fish found in commercial quantities off the northeast coast of the Republic include red snapper, carite, mero, tuna, anchovies, bluefish, sardines, shrimp, and shellfish. Shark products and liver oils are produced. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

VENEZUELA RECEIVES NON-VITAL CARGOES according to A. Dávila-Delado, Venezuelan Shipping Coordinator, who cites the case of a boat with 72 percent of nonessentials including toothpaste, soap, beer, soda, biscuits, wine, toys, furniture, etc. "The Venezuelan Government," declared Mr. Dávila, "prepares through its Import Control Commission, a monthly list of essentialities by means of tabulations of imports and the necessities of our principal industries." Mr. Dávila said the current list of products which Venezuela considers essential was issued monthly and changes not only with regard to commodities but also by quantities. About two months ago, he pointed out, rice was one of the most important items on the list but "today, rice is zero for the simple reason that we got two shiploads from Ecuador." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

VENEZUELA PLANS OIL POLICY CHANGE to establish a more just distribution of its benefits and to establish what properly belongs to the country as owner of the raw material. "We need foreign capital," said President Isaías Medina, "but that does not mean that we are not entitled to what belongs to us." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 466

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EXPORTERS HOPEFUL OF BOARD OF ECONOMIC WARFARE'S "DECENTRALIZATION AGREEMENT" with Brazil. Although official details are still lacking, the program, as understood by the traders, is to establish BEW "field men" in Brazil and later in Mexico, Argentina, and other Latin American countries, to pass on the import applications submitted to the local governmental import control agency before they are presented in the new form of "Certificates of Preference." By means of the reports from these field men the BEW as a "claimant" agency, along with the Army, Navy, Lend-Lease, and other governmental bodies, may document its demands on the nation's stock pile. The activities of the BEW's field agents will be cleared through the newly established "economic councilors" of the State Department. (N. Y. Times)

A CARIBBEAN AREA REFINING COMMITTEE has been established by the Office of the Federal Petroleum Coordinator for War to regulate production in the West Indian, Gulf Coast and Atlantic seaboard refining plants to fill the war needs of the United Nations. This committee will be concerned both with the volume of output from these refineries and with transportation difficulties. (Editorial, N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION PRESCRIBES RATES FOR QUEBRACHO EXTRACT from ports within the scope of the River Plate/United States Freight Conference to U. S. Atlantic and Gulf ports. Charges are \$16.00 per ton of 2,240 pounds on quebracho extract, plus the surcharge of 35 percent authorized for this trade. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA PURCHASES THREE AXIS VESSELS to be used exclusively in hemisphere trade. The acquisition was in accordance with a plan devised by the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee in August 1941, for use of foreign vessels immobilized in American waters at the outbreak of the war. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

AGRARIAN POLICY UPHELD IN MEXICO despite the situation created by the state of war. Engineer Fernando Foglio Miramontes, chief of the agrarian department at the Huerta School, Morelia, Michoacán, reaffirmed the traditional Mexican land policy in recently distributing in the name of President Avila Camacho 2,803 certificates of agrarian rights and 120 certificates of "Indefeasible Agriculture" among the farmers. (N. Y. Times)

MEXICAN COURT UPHOLDS OIL LAND EXPROPRIATION OF 1938. Judge Ponciano Hernández Ortega denied an injunction asked by El Aguila Oil Company, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, and others, ruling that the expropriation was constitutional. The court also denied a request by the plaintiffs that in the future private interests be guaranteed subsoil rights. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICAN "LEASE-LEND" LABOR A SUCCESS. With sugar beet crop safely harvested and stored away, Californians praise the thirty-seven hundred Mexicans who have met the manpower shortage problem in West Coast agriculture to a degree exceeding original expectations. (Howard M. Norton, Baltimore Sun)

MEXICO HUNTS JOBS FOR IDLE WORKERS. According to an exhaustive study of the unemployment situation made by the Labor Ministry, stories of idle workers all over Mexico are greatly exaggerated. The ministry's report shows that in the Federal District there are a few more than 1,000 jobless in the rayon and headgear industries; there are about 1,500 unemployed in the States of Sonora, Jalisco, Chihuahua and Zacatecas because of the exhaustion of ore bodies in some of the mines. Of the some 900 workers deprived of employment in the banana zones of Papaloapan and along the Gulf coast, most are now engaged in farm work which will tide them over until they can get back their jobs on the banana plantations. Lack of vessels have thrown out of work 3,000 men in Veracruz and 2,500 in Tampico, but farm colonies and fishing cooperatives are being organized for these workers, while others will be employed in the shipyards and drydocks the Federal Government is to build. (N. Y. Times)

PRESIDENT AVILA CAMACHO IS URGED TO DECREE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW. The Mexican Social Security plan, which was presented before the Inter-American Social Security Conference at Santiago, Chile, has been termed as one of the most advanced and comprehensive measures in this Hemisphere. Representing a synthesis of the experiences of all the American countries which have such laws, it differs from the Social Security Law of the United States in that it centralizes and standardizes pensions and insurance for the entire Republic. Instead of a variety of State laws, Mexico would have a single Federal code to take care of all types of social insurance. (Christian Science Monitor)

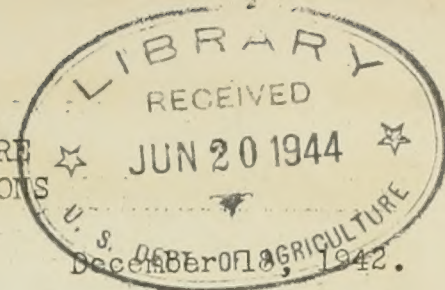
NEW RUBBER SOURCE FOUND IN PANAMA'S JUNGLES. The first sheets of raw rubber refined from the latex of a sprawling rubber stand of native trees deep in the jungles of Darién have arrived in Panama City. Two American technicians, George L. Seeley and Gilbert Brown of the Rubber Reserve Company, say that the crude rubber from this development will keep coming in. Since early spring, Mr. Seeley has been on the isthmus scouting native rubber possibilities, educating local tappers to approve modern methods, and arranging for the Rubber Reserve Company to buy the crude rubber. (Christian Science Monitor)

URUGUAY'S ELECTION RESULTS INDICATE STRONG PRO-ALLY POSITION. President-elect Juan José de Amézaga is a past Ambassador, former Minister of Agriculture, a delegate to the League of Nations and to various international conferences. The ballots that returned President Alfredo Baldomir's Colorado party to power overwhelmingly crushed the reactionary Blanco or National party. This means that pro-Axis tendencies and a policy of "strict neutrality" have lost all foothold in Uruguay. (N. Y. Times)

VENEZUELA CARGOES EMBARGOED BY PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS. The embargo, which is effective immediately, is temporary, and does not apply to shipments under air transportation priority issued by the Air Transport Command of the War Department or to those covered by U. S. Government bills of lading. Abnormal conditions caused by the war emergency prevent FAA from obtaining sufficient additional equipment to handle increased shipments to Venezuela. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS



LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 467

NOTICE: To all who receive the Latin-American News Digest:

The Office of War Information has ordered all government departments and agencies to reduce the distribution of government periodicals, reports, and publications to the absolute minimum compatible with the prosecution of the war. We find it necessary, therefore, to ask each person receiving free publications whether it is essential that his name continue on the mailing list.

If you desire to continue receiving the LATIN-AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST, and believe you have a right to receive it, please write us within 10 days, explaining why you need it. If we do not hear from you, your name will be taken off the mailing list. Address: Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, Washington, D. C.

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OPA ESTABLISHES CEILING ON BANANAS to remedy abnormal market conditions. Maximum prices for green fruit are established at levels somewhat below March 1942 prices but above October 1941. For the best quality fruit from Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, the maximum for importers is \$4.50 per hundred pounds, f.o.b. port of entry. This compares with prices determined under the General Regulation ranging from \$4.50 to \$5.50 at port of entry to as high as \$8.75 at a primary auction point. (Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINE-U.S. TRADE AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE. Ambassador Espil and Secretary of State Hull have exchanged ratifications making effective the reciprocal trade agreement which was signed October 14, 1941. (Christian Science Monitor)

COCOA TRADING AT A STANDSTILL. With the piling up of cocoa stocks in Bahia because of the inability to ship to the United States, plans are being discussed to manufacture cocoa butter in São Paulo. If carried through successfully this would be in line with the findings and recommendations of the American Technical Mission, headed by Morris L. Cooke, which has been making a survey of the industrial situation in Brazil. (Journal of Commerce)

MORE RUBBER FROM BRAZIL. Jaõa Alberto Lins de Barros, Brazilian Coordinator of economic mobilization, predicts 50,000 ton yield of rubber next year, 35,000 tons of which will be shipped to the United States. Mr. Barros tells newspapermen of efforts to develop potential rubber areas along the Tocantins River valley, about a thousand miles south of Belém. Men have already started on walking trips into the Tocantins valley to collect rubber at 75 cents a day. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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CHILE WILL USE INCREASED TAXES ON DISTILLED SPIRITS for construction of a modern building for the University of Chile at Santiago. A portion of the tax funds will also be used by the University in scientific investigation and the creation of university schools and agricultural institutes in the Provinces. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

PERU DISTRIBUTES 2,000 TONS OF SPECIALLY TREATED SALT to small farmers and stock breeders in order to combat deficiency diseases in livestock due to absence of iodine, phosphorus, sulfur, lime, copper, and iron in the diet. The absence of these elements retards growth and prevents the animals from breeding. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

MORE SHIP SPACE FOR FOOD TO PUERTO RICO will soon become available through a recent agreement between the Department of State and the Agricultural Marketing Administration of the Department of Agriculture and the Naviera Dominicana Co. of the Dominican Republic. (Export Trade and Shipper)

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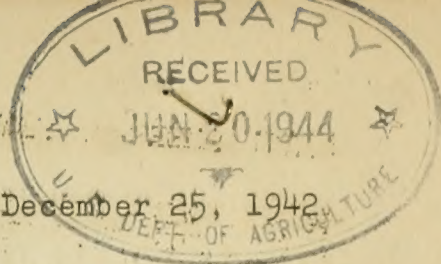
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 468

December 25, 1942



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AMERICAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES PROGRAM of inter-American cooperation on industrial and engineering standards. Full-fledged national standardizing bodies are now in operation in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. In other Latin American countries there are government departments and engineering societies doing similar work. The object of the program is to provide so thorough an interchange of technical data and information that all of the countries of the Western Hemisphere will have similar standards. Cyrus Townsend Brady, Jr., will serve as the field representative for the ASA. (Export Trade and Shipper)

WPB RESTRICTS IMPORTS OF LESS ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES into the United States from Canada, Guatemala, Mexico, and El Salvador. These commodities include canary seed, chicle, molasses, and oil cake and meal (except cocoanut, copra, soybean, or linseed). (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

DOMINICAN AND HAITIAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION REACHES AGREEMENT on frontier dispute after having labored intermittently for thirteen years. (N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINA STOPS WOOL YARN EXPORT pending study of a proposal to fix a basic price for the product. The study is being made by the Ministry of Agriculture in an effort to settle a conflict between departmental experts who seek to fix a basic price and wool producers who oppose such a step. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZILIAN INFLATION THREAT SEEMS OVER. Statistics released by the Minister of Finance reveal that the monetary circulation, which between July 1941 and October 1942 increased nearly 40 percent, decreased in November 5 percent, and even though purchasing power has increased, prices have remained about on the same level for the past three months. Compulsory subscription for war bonds will begin in January, and it is expected that currency circulation will be reduced still further. (N.Y. Times)

CUBA SUBSTITUTES PAPER FOR JUTE SACKS. The Caribbean Paper Products Company, representing joint Cuban and United States capital, will make sacks under license from the International Paper Company. Machinery to set up an experimental plant in Havana has been bought and, if the experiment is successful, operations will be undertaken on a larger scale. (Export Trade and Shipper)

BRAZIL WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN FEEDING NORTH AFRICA and Axis-dominated areas as fast as they are freed provided sufficient transportation is provided, according to João Alberto Lins de Barros. The Co-ordinator of the National Economy of Brazil is in Washington to negotiate shipment of food-dehydration machinery to Brazil where the problem of feeding rubber workers in the Amazon jungles has arisen. The same dehydration equipment might make it easier to package Brazilian staples for the freed countries of the Old World, he declared in an interview. Senhor de Barros says he has received every encouragement and assistance in Washington, and he hopes to have the machinery for turning fresh food into dry food set up and working in three or four months after it reaches his country. (Christian Science Monitor)

READERS DIGEST ISSUES MARKET STUDY OF CUBA. This booklet, which is the second in a series called "New Opportunities for American Business in Latin America," describes Cuba's rapid increase in purchasing power and presents data concerning exports, imports, leading newspapers, magazines, and radio stations, and a list of U.S. trade names known in Cuba. (Export Trade and Shipper)

PANAMA PLANS NEW HIGHWAY from Boquete to Bocas del Toro. It will facilitate both foreign trade and commercial interchange between provinces. Colonel Manuel Pino, Minister of Public Works, says the road will open to agriculture numerous regions hitherto untouched. (Export Trade and Shipper)

MEXICAN CLAIMS BILL, establishing a commission to decide claims of American nationals against Mexico, is signed by President Roosevelt. The claims will come out of a \$40,000,000 fund which the Mexican Government is paying in installments under an agreement reached last year. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICANS PROTEST IMMODERATE INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING. In Mexico City retail prices on 13 basic foodstuffs have risen 59.9 percent since December 1940, and 40.9 percent since December 1941. More marked is the rise in rents. There is a great deal of cash in circulation; people have more to spend, but since Mexico is not a fundamentally producing country, the only way it can meet the increased demand is by raising prices rather than by increasing production. At the same time the higher cost of machinery and other equipment for the processing of flour, corn, and other cereals has been telling on food prices, because the country must import a large part of this equipment from abroad. (Camille Cianfarra - N.Y. Times)

VENEZUELA GETS LOANS TO AID CROPS. Contracts extending two loans of six million dollars each were signed at the Export-Import Bank offices by Warren Lee Pierson and Dr. Diógenes Escalante. Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones says the credits will be used to finance Venezuelan coffee and cocoa crops and stimulate agricultural production. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

VENEZUELA PLANS POST WAR IMMIGRATION. Intensive studies of communication problems, climatic conditions, irrigation, and soil structure are being made by the Ministry of Agriculture with a view to encouraging the establishment of farming communities. The Institute of Immigration and Colonization plans to attract immigrants by land grants, building of modern homes, furnishing of agricultural implements, and in some cases cash allotments. (Christian Science Monitor)